

An estimated 5,000 animals are lost, injured or die each year due to extreme heat or cold temperatures, lack of oxygen or rough handling while being transported in commercial airline cargo holds. These tragedies are not even distinguished from loss or damage to ordinary baggage. To remedy this, Congress enacted a requirement in

April 2000 for airlines to file monthly reports on incidents involving animals, and for the Secretary of Transportation to make this information available to the public so consumers can evaluate specific airlines' records. The FAA has now issued a proposed rule to implement this requirement. While it's taken the agency

a long time to act, I am pleased the FAA is finally moving forward on this. I also want to express concern that the proposed rule only applies to pets of U.S. families (the legislation allowed for other animals - such as those destined for labs or zoos, and pets from other countries - to be covered), and ask that the final rule define "animal" more broadly.